

2010 Michigan Notable Books Programming Ideas from the Michigan Center for the Book

The 2010 Michigan Notable Books list is the Library of Michigan's annual selection of up to 20 recommended books featuring high-quality titles with wide public appeal that are either written by a Michigan resident or about a Michigan-related topic. These titles offer wonderful programming opportunities for a diverse range of your community members. The Michigan Center for the Book has created a list of general tips and specific ideas for each book on the 2010 Michigan Notable Books list.

Try out these suggestions and share your programming and read-a-like ideas with us at reishk@michigan.gov. We'll be glad to add them to the list.

Suggestions for the Michigan Notable Books list:

- Do an exhibit of the 2010 Michigan Notable Books.
- Do an exhibit of Michigan Notable books through the years.
- Do an exhibit of Michigan Notable books through the years on a similar topic, i.e. automobile industry, children's books, nature, architecture, novels set in Detroit, etc.
- Arrange a visit from one of the 2010 authors or an author from a previous year.

Supporting sites and information:

Exhibit information:

- For ideas about exhibits, view library exhibits online at the Smithsonian Institution (www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions).
- *Library Displays Handbook*. Mark Schaeffer, H.W. Wilson, 1991. Available in MeLCat.
- *Creating a Winning Online Exhibition: a Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. Martin R. Kalfatovic, American Library Association, 2002. Available in MeLCat.
- For visual marketing ideas, see www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/6/547/the-art-of-visual-merchandising1.asp or *Visual Merchandising: Window and In-store Displays for Retail*. Tony Morgan, Laurence King, 2008.

Author Visit information:

- Find information on how to set up author visits, including sample contracts, tips and to do lists at www.michigan.gov/authorvisits.
- To see if an author will do library events, contact Randy Riley (rileyr1@michigan.gov) or Kris Rzepczynski (rzepczynskik@michigan.gov).

Michigan Notable Books and Tour information:

- Current and previous Michigan Notable Book lists are at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.

- The 2010 Michigan Notable Book Author tour schedule is at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.
- For Michigan Notable Book posters, bookmarks or book cover medallions (10 for \$2.50); please contact Kim Laird (lairdk1@michigan.gov). Requests are subject to availability.

Suggestions for individual Michigan Notable Books:

- Offer read-a-likes for your readers.
- Do an exhibit based on the book content.
- Arrange a presentation based on the book content with a local community group.
- Arrange a trip to a destination linked to the book.

***American Salvage: Stories* by Bonnie Jo Campbell**

Exhibits:

- National Book Award finalists
- Short story collections
- Books and ephemera on rural towns in Michigan

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Write your own short story
- Speaker from a local aid agency or a counselor on drug rehabilitation

Read-A-Likes:

- *Women & Other Animals: Stories* by Bonnie Jo Campbell
- *Birds of America: Stories* by Lorrie Moore
- *Throw Like a Girl* by Jean Thompson
- *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned: Stories* by Wells Tower

***Annie's Ghosts: A Journey into a Family Secret* by Steve Luxenberg**

Exhibits:

- Genealogy, especially records from institutions
- Local history focusing on family "secrets."
- Asylums in Michigan
- Families and disability, issues and perceptions through the years.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Genealogy, Researching ancestors held in institutions
- History of Mental Health and Disability Care

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic* by Darby Penney and Peter Stastny
- *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards
- *Angels in the Architecture: A Photographic Elegy to an American Asylum* by Heidi Johnson and Nancy Tomes
- *Beauty is Therapy: Memories of the Traverse City State Hospital* by Earle Steele
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

The Art Student's War: A Novel by Brad Leithauser

Exhibits:

- World War II and the Home Front
- Local portraits

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- The Greatest Generation
- Portraiture sketches, especially from the era
- Local art or photography from the era

Trips:

- Detroit Institute of Arts or other local art museum

Read-A-Likes:

- *Nothing But a Smile: A Novel* by Steve Amick
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (teen)
- *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow

Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing by Arnie Bernstein

Exhibits:

- History of local schools

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Dealing with a community tragedy
- Grief counselor on how to heal after violence
- Violence prevention in the workplace or schools
- Movie showing of *Bowling for Columbine*

Read-A-Likes:

- *Life Is Fragile: One Girl's Story of the Bath School Disaster* by Betty Spencer and Jared Gallinger
- *Columbine* by David Cullen
- *Think No Evil: Inside the Story of the Amish Schoolhouse Shooting...and Beyond* by Jonas Beiler and Shawn Smucker

Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin

Exhibits:

- History of Ford Motor Company in Michigan
- Company towns in Michigan (Kellogg's, Dow, GM, etc.)
- Amazon rain forests

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Urban sprawl
- Development of company towns or neighborhoods
- Ecology and the interaction of the environment and industry
- Utopian towns

Trips:

- The Henry Ford Museum

Read-A-Likes:

- *Fordlandia: A Novel* by Eduardo Sguiglia and Patricia J. Duncan

- *The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars* by Joël Glenn Brenner
- *The Road to Wellville* by T. Coraghessan Boyle
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

***Have a Little Faith: A True Story of a Last Request* by Mitch Albom**

Exhibits:

- Obituary writing, community obituaries
- Eulogies, how to give a speech

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Local African-American ministries
- Outreach or Philanthropy for local homeless
- Returning to a faith as an adult

Read-A-Likes:

- *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name: News from Small-Town Alaska* by Heather Lende
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

***Isadore's Secret: Sin, Murder, and Confession in a Northern Michigan Town* by Mardi Link**

Exhibits:

- Local true crime
- Local unsolved crimes with articles from local papers.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Impact of domestic violence on families
- Local detective on local cold cases
- CSI and how investigations are really done

Trips:

- Tours of older local cemeteries, the stories behind the stones.

Read-A-Likes:

- *Murder on Old Mission* by Stephen Lewis
- *Skeletons in the Closet: Stories from the County Morgue* by Tobin T. Buhk and Stephen D. Cohle
- *Eden Springs* by Laura Kasischke
- *When Evil Came to Good Hart* by Mardi Link
- *The Tarnished Eye* by Judith Guest

***January's Sparrow* by Patricia Polacco**

Exhibits:

- Underground Railroad in Michigan
- Michigan's civil rights history
- Children's books on slavery
- Patricia Polacco's books

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Underground Railroad in Michigan – suggested speakers Stewart McMillin, Veta Tucker.

- Famous Michigan abolitionists – Sojourner Truth, etc.

Trips:

- Marshall historical sites

Read-A-Likes:

- *Elijah Of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad* by Betty DeRamus
- *Follow the Drinking Gourd* by Jeanette Winter
- *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson

The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit: Stories by Michael Zadoorian

Exhibits:

- Hawaiian culture
- Urban abandoned buildings
- Architectural photography
- Lost buildings and neighborhoods in your area

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Urban decay and the photography of cities
- Urban spelunking
- Lost buildings and neighborhoods in your area

Read-A-Likes:

- *Weird Michigan* by Linda S. Godfrey, Mark Moran, and Mark Sceurman
- *Forgotten Detroit* by Paul Vachon
- *Andrew Moore: Detroit Disassembled* by Andrew Moore
- *Detroit: Then and Now* by Cheri Y. Gay

Michigan's Columbus: The Life of Douglass Houghton by Steve Lehto

Exhibits:

- Early maps of Michigan
- Mining in Michigan
- Geology of the state

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- History of mining and mining settlements – copper/iron/gypsum/etc.
- Surveying and the settlement of Michigan – suggested speaker Kevin Finney
- Local rock and mineral clubs

Trips:

- Local mine tours

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Expeditions* by Karl Iagnemma
- *A Picturesque Situation: Mackinac Before Photography, 1615-1860* by Brian Leigh Dunnigan
- *Iron Pioneers* by Tyler Tichelaar

Nothing But a Smile: A Novel by Steve Amick

Exhibits:

- 1950s advertising
- 1950s Detroit – history and photos

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Life in Michigan after World War II
- Pin Up art from the era

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Art Student's War: A Novel* by Brad Leithauser
- *For the Boys: The Racy Pin-Ups of World War II* by Max Allan Collins

Orlando M. Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer by Paul Taylor

Exhibits:

- Soo Locks
- Michigan lighthouses
- Michigan Civil War leaders

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- How the Soo Locks changed Michigan
- The Civil War in Michigan
- The history of early shipping in Michigan

Trips:

- The Soo Locks

Read-A-Likes:

- *My Brave Mechanics: The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War* by Mark Hoffman
- *Pandora's Locks: The Opening of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway* by Jeff Alexander
- *Diary of a Yankee Engineer: The Civil War Diary of John Henry Westervelt* by Anita Palladino

Our People, Our Journey: The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by James M. McClurken

Exhibits:

- Native American photos
- Native American culture and crafts

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- History of Michigan Indian communities
- Researching Native American ancestry
- Native American crafts and/or cooking demonstrations
- Show *Black Ash Basketry: A Story of Cultural Resilience*, a documentary from the Great Lakes Lifeways Institute

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Place of the Pike (Gnoozhekaaning): a History of the Bay Mills Indian Community* by Charles E. Cleland
- *The Indians of Hungry Hollow* by Bill Dunlop Jr. and Marcia Fountain-Blackledge

- *The Sound the Stars Make Rushing Through the Sky: The Writings of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft* edited by Robert Dale Parker
- *Mem-ka-weh: Dawning of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians* by George Weeks, Minnie Wabanimkee, and Jim Harrison

***Pandora's Locks: The Opening of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway* by Jeff Alexander**

Exhibits:

- Locks in the Great Lakes
- Great Lakes shipping industry

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Economic and environmental impact of invasive species
- Great Lakes ecology, suggested speaker Dave Dempsey

Trips:

- Work bees with local conservation/environmental groups

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas* by Jerry Dennis
- *Tinkering with Eden: A Natural History of Exotics in America* by Kim Todd and Claire Emery
- *The Muskegon: The Majesty And Tragedy of Michigan's Rarest River* by Jeff Alexander
- *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century* by Dave Dempsey

***Roses and Revolutions: The Selected Writings of Dudley Randall* edited by Melba Joyce Boyd**

Exhibits:

- African-American poetry and poets
- Michigan's Civil Rights history
- Michigan poets

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Harlem Renaissance writers as a 1st wave of nationally known African American authors and Randall's place as a publisher in a 2nd wave of nationally known African American authors, the Black Arts Movement.
- Poetry slams using Randall or Broadside Press poets
- Future of Civil Rights in Michigan

Read-A-Likes:

- *Wrestling with the Muse: Dudley Randall and the Broadside Press* by Melba Joyce Boyd
- *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press: An Anthology* by Gloria House, Rosemary Weatherston, and Albert Michael Ward
- *Pilgrim Journey* by Naomi Cornelia Long Madgett
- *Dudley Randall, Broadside Press, and the Black Arts Movement in Detroit, 1960-1995* by Julius Eric Thompson

***Season of Water and Ice* by Donald Lystra**

Exhibits:

- Local photos from the 1950s
- Rural Michigan from the 1950s

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Teens today versus teens in the 1950s
- The role of family obligations in people's lives

Read-A-Likes:

- *Pulling Down the Barn: Memories of a Rural Childhood* by Anne-Marie Oomen
- *A Summer of Silk Moths* by Margaret Willey

***Stitches: A Memoir* by David Small**

Exhibits:

- Graphic novel memoirs
- David Small books

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- The range of David Small's art
- How to write a memoir
- How artists' experiences are reflected in their art
- The impact of a disability on children and families

Read-A-Likes:

- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi
- *Blankets* by Craig Thompson
- *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman
- *The Adventures of Cancer Bitch* by S. L. Wisenberg

***Travelin' Man: On the Road and Behind the Scenes with Bob Seger* by Tom Weschler and Gary Graff**

Exhibits:

- Michigan musicians
- Rock musician biographies
- Rock musicians photography

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Local band concert
- Bob Seger's lyrics
- A Seger night out party featuring Seger's music

Read-A-Likes:

- *Scar Tissue* by Anthony Kiedis and Larry Sloman
- *Iggy Pop: Open Up and Bleed* by Paul Trynka
- *Just Kids* by Patti Smith
- *Guitars, Bars, and Motown Superstars* by Dennis Coffey

***Up the Rouge! Paddling Detroit's Hidden River* by Joel Thurtell and Patricia Beck**

Exhibits:

- Photos by Pat Beck
- Pollution, especially in Michigan rivers and watersheds

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Local canoeing groups on area rivers
- Costs and politics of clean water
- Biodiversity of rivers, what rivers add to local ecology

Trips:

- River clean up event with local conservation group

Read-A-Likes:

- *The Muskegon: The Majesty And Tragedy of Michigan's Rarest River* by Jeff Alexander
- *Crooked River Burning* by Mark Winegardner
- *Michigan Rivers Less Paddled* by Doc Fletcher
- *Weekend Canoeing in Michigan: The Rivers, The Towns, The Taverns* by Doc Fletcher and Keith Jones

***When March Went Mad: The Game That Transformed Basketball* by Seth Davis**

Exhibits:

- Michigan college basketball history and ephemera
- Larry Bird and Magic Johnson
- Famous Michigan college athletes

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Show Larry Bird & Magic Johnson games from ESPN Classic
- Professionalization of college basketball
- Impact of money on college sports
- Local sports writer or coach on local basketball

Read-A-Likes:

- *How March Became Madness: How the NCAA Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America* by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport
- *When the Game Was Ours* by Larry Bird, Earvin Johnson Jr., and Jackie MacMullan
- *The Fab Five: Basketball Trash Talk the American Dream* by Mitch Albom
- *Greg Kelser's Tales from Michigan State Basketball* by Gregory Kelser